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Volume 12, Number 25

RESIDENTS RALLY FOR FURY

PLAINFIELD—Opponents of the recall effort broke into raucous cries of "four more years" for Mayor Mark Fury as they gathered at his City Council to be voted out.

About 1500 supporters gathered at the Black United Fund Community Center Complex to show Fury that they were behind him 100 percent. Speakers roared the crowd to chants for Fury and booed for his opponents and divisive City Council.

Though the City Council became all Democratic in January, Fury, a Democrat, said that because of the in-house fighting he could only "count on three" when it came to important votes.

Speaker after speaker, including activist Linwood Cabhart, former Mayor Richard L. Taylor, former NAACP President Emily Washington and other civic leaders, called on the council members to support the mayor or face the consequences of a recall themselves.

The City Council meeting for the same night was postponed so that any interested council members could attend the rally.

Other speakers said that feelings of Fury's deeds and said that praise of the community should be on people's minds rather than recalling him.

"I don't think we need a recall, we need a roll call," said James Whitefield of a new civic group, Ten Links. "Who is willing to be a part of something positive? Look at the people talking about the mayor and ask, are you on the roll?"

Recall organizer, Terry Christensen, James Mills Sr. and Jackie Schmitz have until July 10 to collect the necessary 3,000 signatures, and if they are successful, a recall election will be held.

Mayor Mark Fury

by Ron L. Holland

BRICK TOWNSHIP—Three Veterans Memorial Middle School students, whose names are being withheld because of their age, are under investigation in connection with a racist drawing that was given to a fourteen-year-old African-American female student.

The incident occurred on March 4, and determining which of the three under investigation is responsible for the drawing has been a slow process according to the victim's mother, Leona Tillery.

"I received two phone calls since the incident and that was it," Tillery said, of the lack of cooperation from school and police officials. "If they were doing anything don't you think they should contact the parents knowing that the parents are somewhat upset?"

Despite published reports that authorities were immediately notified, Tillery said that her sister pushed school and police officials to notify the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office and to have the incident investigated as a bias crime.

Tillery, who is a unit secretary at Jersey Shore Medical Center, said her daughter was preparing to leave her third period English class when a Hispanic classmate, who was first reported as white, handed her the note.

When the young lady opened the note, a drawing depicting a Ku Klux Klansman holding up a cross and adorned with Swastikas was accompanied by the words "White Power Forever." The classmate claimed to have had no knowledge of the note's content.

Tillery said when the school's principal Martin Fadul notified her, he informed her that the note allegedly

was addressed to her daughter. The student who passed the note is said to have claimed the same.

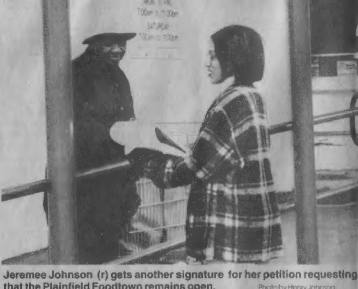
When asked if her daughter was targeted, Tillery said that although she is the only black child in the class "to know her is to love her. She is a very lovable child." Tillery said however, in speaking with her daughter and viewing the original note, no name could be found and said she could only speculate why Fadul and the student claimed the note was addressed to her daughter.

According to Tillery, of the three



Copy of drawing handed to 14-year-old African-American student.

see RACIST DRAWINGS/ page 3



Jeramee Johnson (r) gets another signature for her petition requesting that the Plainfield Foodtown remains open.

Foodtown battle continues

by Kelly Howard

PLAINFIELD—As Edwards Super Stores prepares to shut the doors of Plainfield's Foodtown on April 13, concerned citizens are planning an assault to either keep the community's only major food store open or to find a replacement soon.

The Food Fight Coalition, of Jan and Jeramee Johnson, began their battle on Saturday morning (March 16), outside the South Avenue store by picketing, handing out fliers and soliciting signatures for a petition against the closing of the store.

Within four hours on Sunday they had gathered over 400 signatures and had enlightened people from Plainfield and its surrounding communities of Fanwood, Scotch Plains, North Plainfield and Westfield of the importance of fighting against the closing.

"We (Food Fight Coalition) see

this as part of minority communities being abandoned by a major food chain in this state," said Jan Johnson. "For example, A&P and Foodtown have both left Plainfield, while Westfield is predominantly white town which has a Foodtown, is trying to prevent a third supermarket from being built."

Plainfield's Foodtown is the only store that Edwards is closing, of the 28 that the parent company Koniglik like Abhold KV, purchased last summer. Residents of Plainfield are not afraid to speculate as to why.

"Basically we feel they are only closing the store because it is a minority community," Jeramee Johnson said.

The group presented the signatures on Monday, March 18 to Plainfield's City Council, who have been trying to gain an amicable agreement with Edwards to no avail. Represent-

See FOODTOWN/ page 10

Plainfield choir needs funds



Members of the Plainfield High School Choir at a performance at the city's Senior Citizen Center.

by Kelly Howard

PLAINFIELD—After months of long hours of hard work, only half of Plainfield High School's concert choir may be able to attend their upcoming concert tour due to lack of funds. But vocal teacher Stefanie Minette still has hope of some benefactor coming up with the remaining \$27,000, so that all 35 of her best singers will be able to go.

"Right now, only 16 are going because of funds, but I'd love to take them all," she said.

Minette said that the teenagers knew it was going to be tough and started fund-raising last May in an

attempt to reach their \$70,000 goal. The city high school students have raised \$43,000 through flea markets, bazaars, raffles, solicited corporate donations and several benefit concerts. For a concert tour that will take them to Europe.

The week-long trip, which kicks off with a Vienna music festival will also take the students to Prague and Budapest. The chorus was selected to represent New Jersey at the festival following its performances at several teen arts competitions.

Many of the students are curious to see just what the other school groups can do, and if the Plainfield

See PLAINFIELD CHOIR/ page 10

Violence mars Stella Wright Homes

NEWARK—As families live in fear for their lives, from drug dealers and stray bullets, the living condition surrounding the Stella Wright Homes in Newark is only comparable to living in a battle zone.

Created so low that many including tenant leaders, the Newark City Council and the Newark Housing Authority are working together to make the area a more habitable place.

Last week, tenant leaders approached the City Council to call in the National Guard to restore order. The Newark Housing Authority, which has ultimate control over the complex even though the tenant resident management corporation is legally in charge, has proposed to battle the uncontrollable

violence and drug dealing by spending \$2 million to install fences, security checkpoints and hire 24-hour security guards.

Harry Robinson, spokesman for the housing authority, said the concept has worked at the Archbishop Walsh Homes high-rise complex in the city's North Ward, which was also plagued with violence and drugs.

"I really changed the whole character," he said. "People are riding their bicycles and children are playing again."

Built in 1959 and named after community activist Stella Wright, the Central Ward complex is Newark's largest, highest-rise public housing complex, with 1,206 units and it's the most belated

guered. In large circular areas—known as the doughnut to residents, drug dealers have turned the once courtyard park into a muddy, litter-strewn lot of a war zone.

The violence at Stella Wright, however, is not new. In the 1970s, it became a national symbol of what was wrong with public housing. In the two decades since, drug trafficking and crime have made conditions in the complex even worse, tenant leaders say.

Acting Police Director Thomas O'Reilly said 2,000 arrests were made at or near the complex last year along with the confiscation of 143 weapons. Since January, 89 arrests have been

See VIOLENCE MARS HOMES/ page 10

NJ NAACP reaffirms priorities

by Avery Grant

TINTON FALLS—The New State Conference of National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Branches met at its quarterly conference in Tinton Falls that its priorities are civil rights and education. Dr. Elaine C. Harrington, State NAACP President, who was re-elected, was sworn in with the other state officers by Assemblyman Thomas R. Smith.

In her opening remarks titled, "The Call-Challenge-Mandate," Harrington said, "Our new day has begun. We are in it together. The goals and aims of the NAACP have not changed, our goal is still to be the voice of civil rights, even though the focus and process may change at times. We are the people who protect the economic rights, particularly of those whom we represent," Harrington continued. "I ask you to work together, as people's rights are still being violated."

Referring to education, she said, "I am happy to announce that the Educational Training Services, distributed the national NAACP Civil



Assemblyman Thomas R. Smith congratulates Dr. Elaine Harrington after installing her as president of the New Jersey State Conference of NAACP Branches at the State NAACP Quarterly Conference.

Princeton, has agreed to put together a series of workshops to assist our card-carrying youth members in delineating how to take the Scholastic Aptitude Test."

Attorney Lori Caughman, State NAACP Legal Redress Coordinator, distributed the national NAACP Civil

Rights Reference Manual, and discussed the procedures for processing legal issues and complaints. Delineating the limits of branches' capability, Caughman cautioned, "Be sure to have the complainant sign a disclaimer form, so that they know we are not

See NAACP PRIORITIES/ page 10

STATE ISSUES SCHOOL SPENDING GUIDE

TRENTON—The State Department of Education last week released a "Comparative Spending Guide" that provides information on spending patterns in all New Jersey school districts.

The 700-page guide lists districts' per-pupil expenditures in 15 budgetary categories. It then ranks the districts' figures among those of school systems of similar size and enrollment. In addition, the guide ranks districts according to student-state ratios.

The project's purpose, according to Commissioner of Education Leo Klagholz, is "to encourage school district accountability and provide important information to all citizens."

"The New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) strongly supports efforts to provide parents and the community with information about their schools," said Dr. Robert E. Boose, NJSBA's executive director. "For the information to be of value to the public, it has to be provided in the proper context and be easy to understand."

The commissioner and I have discussed the Comparative Spending Guide, NJSBA has offered its assistance to the Department of Education to help improve future presentation of the data.

NJSBA has expressed concern over the document's format and its emphasis on rankings and believes that such an approach gives the public an incomplete, inaccurate picture of district expenditures. Moreover, the document would have been viewed more objectively by the public if it had not been released just a month before school budget elections.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH SPECIAL

Alfonso offers an alternative

JERSEY CITY—Nearly 20 years ago, Cessie Alfonso risked a fourishing career to start up a company from her home. Today, the consulting firm for lawyers, Alfonso Associates generates a healthy revenue of nearly \$1 million, employs 15 people and operates from a three story building.

Alfonso's success lies in the strength of her vision and plain hard work. Even her competitors acknowledge that she's a trailblazer in her field. She herself is quick to point to her Hispanic heritage as key to her ability to parlay a bright career as a psychiatric social work nurse into a six-figure business that is booming.

As president and founder of Alfonso Associates, a human resource and consulting firm, Alfonso has carved out a unique niche. She provides attorneys with investigative and training services. From public and private attorneys in more than 20 states nationwide to Harvard Law School and Federal courts, law associations among others, Alfonso and her team of professionals look to the lawyer's clients—so the attorney can mount the best legal defense possible.

What should be the lawyer's defense when his or her client is facing the death penalty? That's where Alfonso's expertise can mean the difference between life and death. As a key arm of the defense team, the steps in to prepare alternative sentencing. A hot topic that is currently generating much debate in the media nationwide, alternative sentencing should be of particular concern among Hispanics and other minorities. They make up nearly 95 percent of the death penalty cases.

According to Alfonso, whatever the heat generated by the debate, alternative sentencing is here to stay. It is a simple case of dollars and sense, she says. The high costs of incarceration are prohibitive; alternative sentencing offers a reasonable solution.

Says Alfonso, "When we prepare our alternative sentencing reports and when I testify in court, I always try to strike that delicate balance. It is difficult, but not impossible, to weigh the crime and lay out the punishments." Alfonso notes that for minorities, an advocate for alternative sentencing is desperately needed. Too often they lose out.



Cessie Alfonso


In addition to alternative sentencing, Alfonso's company provides a rare—yet much needed—service to lawyers. Trained as legal and litigation experts, attorneys simply are not prepared to deal with the full range of psychological, emotional and other problems their clients experience, due to personal duress or trauma. That's where Alfonso and her team come in. They provide the supportive, professional support

See ALFONSO/ page 10

PEOPLE

Voter registration drive

PLAINFIELD—The parents of Pro Con Track and the League of Women Voters of Plainfield are sponsoring a voter registration drive scheduled for Sunday, March 30 from 10 to 1 p.m. at the Maxon School Cafeteria. For additional information call Persia at 908-754-3243.



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Assemblywoman Gill Named Honorary Chair of March of Dimes



MONTCCLAIR—Assemblywoman Nia H. Gill was recently named 1996 honorary chairperson of March of Dimes WalkAmerica. Gill is pictured with Marissa Shaevel, the 1996 March of Dimes National Ambassador during the girl's recent three-day trip to North Jersey. Marissa was born critically ill, nearly three months premature and weighing less than 3 pounds. Assemblywoman Nia Gill will be walking to give more Essex County mothers and babies a better chance at a healthy start in life together. March of Dimes Essex County WalkAmerica will take place at Montclair State University and Essex County College on Sunday, April 28. For information or to register, call the North Jersey Chapter at 201-682-0700.

Sgt. First Class Lillian Williams honored by NAACP



Sgt. First Class Lillian Williams

TINTON FALLS—Sergeant First Class Lillian R. Williams, (l) of Trenton recently received the Roy Wilkins Renown Service Award "In recognition of outstanding contributions to military Equal Opportunity policies and programs." This award from the National NAACP recognizes outstanding military service. Williams is the Equal Opportunity Officer for the New Jersey National Guard Military Academy. She is also president of the Willingboro NAACP Branch.



Dr. Julianne Malveaux, (c) president of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, welcomes members and guests to the Association's New Horizon Awards presentations to commemorate Women's History Month. Pictured with her are, (from left) Patricia Randall, program chairperson for the event; Georgette Sealbrooke Powell, visual artist and award winner; Gloria Johnson who accepted the other award on behalf of Alexis Herman, assistant to the President and director of the White House Office of Public Liaison and Roberta London, the Association's first vice president. The Association, a coalition of 350 local groups, was established in 1935 as a support network for professional and business women.

Community Calendar

MONDAYS

PLAINFIELD—Kathy Fry leads a series of light aerobic exercises for senior citizens at the Senior Citizen Center at 305E. Front St. For more info call 908-753-3506.

TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS

PLAINFIELD—Professionally led imbering and aerobic exercises at the YMCA, in the heated pool at 10:30 a.m. For more info call 908-753-3506.

THURSDAY MARCH 30

NORTH BRANCH—entertainment Council of NJ presents "Shades of Meaning," etchings and Monotypes by Joanne Scott at the Lillian Galt 440 River Rd. For more info call 908-725-2110.

THURSDAY MARCH 31

TRENTON—photo exhibit titled "African Diaspora Women at the Beijing WGO Forum" in the Roscoe L. West Library lobby at Trenton State College. For more info call 609-771-2368.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27

ROSELAND—The Prudential's Women's History Month celebration continues with a Health and Fitness Fair in the lobby at the Roseland II Campus. Dr. Lorraine Maita will discuss heart disease, breast cancer and osteoporosis. For more info call 201-802-7134.

NEWARK—lecture titled "Treatment of Women by Italian Composers," at A.J.A. Wilson Alumni Center Seminar Room, N.J.T. 2:30 p.m. For more info call 201-596-8458.

THURSDAY, MARCH 28

MONTCCLAIR—Montclair State University Women's History Month event, Women Student Organization Reception with guest speaker, Dr. Yvonne Thornton, author of the Ditchdigger's Daughters, 3 p.m. student center, Rm. 411.

NEWARK—ECC Women's History Month two-part series on Getting Your Financial House in Order, 6 to 8 p.m. in the Women's Center. For more info call 201-677-3395.

UNION—fire safety program hosted by Saint Barnabas Health Care System's Senior Health program, at 2:30 p.m. For more info call 908-964-0444.

WAYNE—"Readings by Worton A. Rother, poet Priscilla Orr and feature writer Julie Eggs, at Paterson Room of the Sarah Byrd Askew Library, at William Paterson College, at 3:30 p.m. For more info call 201-595-2971.

FRIDAY, MARCH 29

PLAINFIELD—Stone Soup and Bingo Day. Students of Gill St. Bernard's will prepare soup and sandwiches, followed by a bingo game at the Senior Citizen Center. For more info call 908-753-3506.

JERSEY CITY—"A Time for Change: Are You Ready for the Challenge?" Jersey City State College's 3rd Annual Mission Conference in the multipurpose room of the Michael Gligan Student Bldg. at 8:30 a.m. For more info call 201-200-3468.

JERSEY CITY—"Creating World Class Urban Education," moderated by Gil Nobile, 1:30 p.m. featuring a debate on vouchers and charter schools, in the multipurpose room of the Michael Gligan Student Bldg. For more info call 201-200-3468.

MONDAY, MARCH 30

PLAINFIELD—The Plainfield Symphony Orchestra in concert at the Crescent Ave. Presbyterian Church, 716 Watchung Ave. at 8 p.m. For more info call 908-661-6140.

FREEHOLD—African American In The Suburbs presents a discussion of Interracial Dating/Marriage Bias Crimes at the Centristate Medical Center, 901 W. Main St. For more info call 908-269-8144.

PRINCETON—NJSBA's conference "Curriculum Standards and the Board," at the Forrestal at Princeton Conference Center, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registration 8:30 a.m. For more info call 609-278-5214.

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

NEWARK—Black Holocaust Memorial Day Committee's "Missing Heroes and Heroines and Heroines" awards banquet at the Robert Treat Hotel Ballroom. For more info call 800-564-2971.

WAYNE—"Spring Open House" for prospective students and their parents. Program at 1 p.m., tour from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. For more info call 201-595-2950.

THURSDAY, APRIL 1

NEWARK—Division of Recreation/Cultural Affairs, is holding registrations for "Three-On-Three Basketball" at all Recreation Centers, for more info call 201-773-5454.

Calendar listings should be sent two weeks in advance to ensure publication

NATION

Black Press stands its ground in Washington, DC

National News at a Glance

JESSE JACKSON BLASTS ACADEMY AWARDS

Jesse Jackson has led a coalition of minority groups in protesting the Academy Awards claiming, "institutional racism that is manifest in three ways in Hollywood: Racial exclusion, cultural distortion and denial of access to production." Jackson said, "Let us examine the facts. Although African Americans are 12 percent of the population, our participation in front of the camera, behind the camera, and in the executive suites is minuscule." Jackson called the situation "cultural distortion," and said the media portrays African Americans and other people of color in five deadly ways: "We are portrayed as less intelligent than we are, less hardworking, less universal, less patriotic and more violent than we are." Jackson said Hollywood bases its art forms on a racially stratified society and its "Social inequities continue to be expressed as realities through our cultural forms for all the world to see."

—WASHINGTON, DC

FARRAKHAN FIGHTS BACK

Lawyers for Nation of Islam Minister Louis Farrakhan are saying allegations in a letter from the U.S. Justice Department are "substantively erroneous and may constitute a violation of Farrakhan's First Amendment rights." NOI lawyers charged that the Justice Department's actions in requesting that Farrakhan may be required to register as an agent of a foreign government are "procedurally improper," partially because they based their allegations solely on a Jan. 29 Washington Post report. "Beyond the inherent inadmissibility and unreliability of hearsay statements, you openly admit your own uncertainty as to the truth of the Washington Post article," the attorneys said. The attorneys told the Justice Department, "The single source of your allegations of possible criminal conduct on the part of Minister Farrakhan is a newspaper story. Despite these circumstances, you have taken the wrongful and unjustifiable action of issuing a threat to Minister Louis Farrakhan."

—WASHINGTON, DC

BLACKS LISTED IN TOP 100 TALK SHOW HOSTS

The Washington Afro-American reports that Washington, D.C.-based syndicated talk show hosts Joe Madison and Armstrong Williams have been listed in *Talkers Magazine* as being among the top 100 talk show hosts in the country. Other blacks who were on the list were Ken Hamblin of Denver, Gary Byrd of New York City and Larry Elder of Los Angeles. There are more than 4000 talk show hosts broadcasting on more than 1200 talk show stations and networks in America today.

—WASHINGTON, DC

MAE JAMISON ARRESTED IN ALLEGED TRAFFIC VIOLATION

The Houston Forward Times is reporting that Dr. Mae Jamison, the U.S.'s only black female astronaut, was recently arrested by Houston police, handcuffed and thrown to the ground by officers after making a wrong turn in traffic. The stop by police was compounded by a radio check which showed that Jamison had an unpaid ticket on her record. The complaint by the Forward Times, and many blacks in the area, is that Jamison was "treated like an uppity Negro."

—HOUSTON, TX

WINNIE MANDELA DENIED ALIMONY

In gaining his divorce settlement, South African President Nelson Mandela told a Johannesburg divorce court that his estranged wife Winnie had committed marital infidelity and there was no chance of reconciliation. The 77-year-old president accused his 61-year-old wife of having an affair with a lawyer in his own African National Congress (ANC) party. Winnie Mandela has contested the divorce, and was asking for half of her husband's assets, which she pegs at "about \$10 million." The judge denied Mrs. Mandela any money from President Mandela's estate or his \$145,000 annual salary.

—JOHANNESBURG, S. AFRICA

WASHINGTON, DC—In spite of opposition from general media and many government and elected officials, leaders of the Black Press of America stood their ground during Black Press Week and gave Nation of Islam (NOI) Minister Louis Farrakhan the recognition they say he has among African Americans.

Although often ignored by the general community and media, the Black Press of America and its 200 newspaper operations were the focus of attention here for its stand regarding Minister Louis Farrakhan. The opposition came in the form of denial of access to President Clinton, letters from Jewish groups condemning the action and some attacks from African Americans.

At a press conference at the National Press Club, National Newspaper Publishers Association (NPPA) President Dorothy Leavell said, "No body can tell us who to honor." She pointed to an hostile Washington press corps that "Every time we serve 10 million readers every week and conducted a national readers' survey in 1994 which showed them, that Farrakhan had a following general media continues to ignore us and our readers as if we are invisible."

She continued, "I don't know of a better example that illustrates how divided America's black and white society is. You have made up your mind that you don't like Farrakhan and what you think he stands for, ignoring a very important fact that in the black community he is viewed as standing up for something nobody else has stood up for us, for the right to be free and self-reliant," Leavell told reporters.

At odds with the Clinton Administration before the announcement of Farrakhan as the organization's "Newsmaker of the Year," the group's board of directors had sought a meeting with the President during their 1996 Black Press Week programs in the nation's capital.

"Seeing that President Clinton just met with white leaders in the communications industry it seemed proper that he would have accepted Mrs. Leavell's overture for similar briefing for the Black Press seeing that we were already assembled here," said William Reed, the NPPA's Washington headquarters executive.

The Black Press, like black America, is invisible to most Ameri-

Racist drawing

Continued from page 1

icans involved, one does dislike her daughter but she was not certain he was responsible. She suggested that a handwriting analysis be conducted to determine the author of the drawing.

Neither Principal Fudali nor the Superintendent were available for comment. However, a school official said the incident is being fully investigated and a statement would not be issued until the investigation was complete.

The younger Tillery, who is a B average student has career ambitions of becoming a lawyer. But according to her mother, those dreams were temporarily dashed when she received the note. "She was scared to death" Tillery said. "She began crying and very upset." Tillery, whose eyes began to swell with tears, said her daughter was so shaken she refused to attend school the next day.

In a letter addressed to Howard West, president of the Ashbury Park/ Neptune Branch of the NAACP, the young woman wrote "I was afraid to go back to school so I took Tuesday March 5, 1996 off to sit and think some things over. Now I know I have my support behind me I am going back."

Mrs. Tillery said her daughter prays daily before going to school but "still looks over her shoulder." She said she used this incident to explain to her daughter the importance of pursuing her dreams.

West said he hopes the school will institute sensitivity training with staff and students. He reported, "there are some serious racial problems in Ocean County and when people deny that it is there, they are in complete denial."

John Dom of the Ocean County Prosecutors office said the investigation was moving quickly as possible and that recommendations for charges by the department's investigators are expected early.

Dom also claimed there may be possible alternative solutions to resolve the matter because of the age of the children. He said all incidents of this nature are initially looked at as bias incidents until investigations are complete. Tillery, however, said she will continue to press to have the student responsible brought to justice.

cans until it acknowledges someone like Louis Farrakhan," Reed said.

During their Washington celebrations commemorating 169 years of the existence of the Black Press, the NPPA's leaders did meet with government officials heading the Departments of Agriculture, Labor and Defense. Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman announced his department's new advertising initiatives to President Leavell. African-American Under Secretary of Defense Edwin Doh-

erty manages two Fortune 500-sized businesses and an over \$150 million-a-year advertising budget, used the Washington meetings to open up new lines of communication to the Black Press.

The nation's Senators and Congressional Representatives actively participated in the Black Press' meetings on Capitol Hill. Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA), who was the NPPA's keynote speaker during their Mid-Winter Workshop, met with the group,

joined with them in their concerns about lack of White House access, and forwarded a letter to the White House insisting that President Clinton meet with black publishers in a timely manner.

Reps. Don Payne (D-NJ), head of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), along with Congress-people Edolphus Towns (D-NY), Chaka Fattah (D-PA), Charles Rangel (D-NY), Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX) and other members of Congress met with leaders of the Black

Press. Many publishers also met with Senators who sit on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to discuss fair treatment for African countries, in general, and for Nigeria, in particular. At ceremonies at Howard University, two deceased publishers were Henry E. S. Reeves, founder of the *Miami Times* and J. Hugo Warren, Sr., founder of the *Philadelphia and Washington (DC) Observer* newspapers enshrined into the Black Press Hall of Fame.

Vending sites available for Olympics

ATLANTA—Entrepreneur Munson Steed, Jr., president of B.O. Swing Games Management, Inc., is inviting vendors from across the country to lease vending sites during the Centennial Olympic and Paralympic Games in Atlanta.

The leased sites will be strategically located in the city to provide the maximum exposure for vendors.

"This is an amazing opportunity

for vendors to showcase their wares to more than 3 million visitors from almost 700 countries," said Steed.

"The positioning of the vending carts enables vendors to reach a larger market than they could if they stayed in their home towns. The benefit to the vendor and the visitors coming to Atlanta for the games is tremendous."

Individual vending spaces sell

for \$10,000 to \$20,000 each, based on the placement. The carts can be set up on Atlanta street corners beginning July 15 and will be operational through the end of the Paralympic Games on August 25.

Atlanta Mayor Bill Campbell, a supporter of this marketing strategy said, "The legacy of what these vending sites mean to Atlanta will be around much longer than the 17-day run of the

games.

"We anticipate that many of our vending participants will continue to sell their products in Atlanta long after the games are over.

"Growth like this is important to any city and Atlanta is fortunate to be the beneficiary."

For information about obtaining vending sites call Swing Games Management at 404-681-4800.



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Who are The 100 Most Influential in New Jersey?

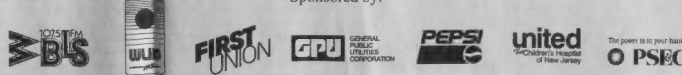
- Individuals who contribute significantly to the progress of black people in the state of New Jersey
- Individuals who use their success to uplift the black communities of New Jersey
- Individuals who use their positions to promote good corporate citizenship
- Individuals who selflessly do extraordinary community service
- Individuals who not only understand the critical importance of rebuilding New Jersey's urban communities, but also commit significant time and resources to urban revitalization

Don't miss the City News 100 Nominees' list in next week's paper. You may be among those nominated!

May 2, 1996



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OPINION AS SEE IT

EDITORIAL

Let's be our own barometer

In reaction to People magazine's March 18 cover story "Hollywood Blackout," Rev. Jesse Jackson has vowed to have members of ethnic, advocacy groups and community leaders in front of the L.A. Music Center, protesting—at the Academy Awards—against what he charges is discrimination against African Americans in Hollywood.

If the magazine intended to make Hollywood uncomfortable with the stereotypes' accusations of racism in the film industry, it succeeded. What they may not have expected was this type of reaction from the African-American community.

Racism in Hollywood—or anywhere else for that matter—is nothing new, but it takes something like this for us to take a stand and get upset about what is happening.

As African-Americans, we need to stand up against any form of racism—subtle or obvious—everyday of our lives. If we don't like how we are being represented in Hollywood and on film, don't just boycott the Oscars, boycott every film that doesn't have any blacks in it or misrepresents us.

If we are angered by the lack of positive TV roles and shows, then we must discontinue watching those corrupt shows and send continuous letters of protest to the television stations. We also need to learn how to support our own, and not wait for some non-African-American critic or awards committee to tell us that someone of color is worthy. We must become the barometer of talent when it comes to our actors and singers, the barometer of quality when it comes to our neighborhoods and schools, the barometer of our opportunities when it comes to jobs and entrepreneurship. We cannot become discouraged when other groups make judgments which we know are couched in racism and ignorance. We must seize every instance to set our own standards, hold each other to those standards and give recognition to those who meet and surpass those standards in an extraordinary way.

No matter how you slice it, racism is still racism, but if we only raise our voice in protest when it is convenient or placed in a prominent light, then we will always have to deal with unequal and unfair treatment.

by Connie Woodruff



He is president of the National Baseball League; has a busy schedule that keeps him constantly flying from coast-to-coast and a family name to boot, but Lennie Coleman still has a passion for volunteer service.

He recently took on another challenge as Chairman of the Jackie Robinson Foundation, maintaining this is a labor of love for the late baseball great and his widow, Rachel Robinson. When Lennie played baseball for Montreal High and later for a local (NJ) semi-pro team, Jackie Robinson was his idol and "it's a way of giving back to a man and his mission who inspired, encouraged and motivated youngsters of all colors and creeds in his (Robinson's) glory days."

It's this kind of spirit of taking the time to remember one roots that makes Lennie Coleman one of my favorite people in the world of public service.

Speaking of public service, women are pushing hard to be seen and heard in the Black Issues Conference (BIC) upper echelons. Three have moved up in rank on BIC's executive committee: Blanche Harris, vice president; Diana Cooper, secretary and Bessie White, treasurer.

Another three women are making life miserable for the Cooper administration in East Orange: Councilmembers Yvonne Blake, Carol Clark and Mary Patterson, each pointing fingers at the mayor's office for the city's deep financial trouble which is said to have occurred when the city operated with a deficit for two years. They are also asking questions about a potential reduction in police ranks when East Orange is ranked 10th in the nation in violent crimes. This may or may not have something to do with the rumors Blake and Clark may become candidates for mayor next time around.

Since Mayor James Santiago Newark funeral director Ramona Tappé for deputy mayor, friends say her skills as a political negotiator have greatly

improved. There is a possibility she may replace Maria Vizzaronda DeSoto as Essex County Surrogate. That will make Ramona the highest ranking Hispanic elected official in Essex County and catapult her to a leadership role in the Latino community.

The death of Assemblyman Monroe J. Lusvardi came as a surprise to many who had no idea the former Republican Freeholder had been enduring his fatal illness for several years.

And now speculation is running wild as people discuss his successor. Among the names surfacing with regularity is Essex County Executive Jim Treffinger—the only question seems to be when and who will replace him. Will Carroll Cooper finally get the opportunity to serve or will Democratic Chairman Tom Giblin name himself as an interim? Or will Treffinger choose to remain in the post?

Kudos to Newark Councilwoman Mildred Crump for a successful second annual Empowerment for Women Conference. It was a return visit for Stang Souahg whose script didn't change much from last year. As good

as she is at stirring an audience, Crump and her crew really ought to be looking at new faces for '97—the year before the councilwoman runs for re-election.

Assemblyman Willie Brown may find himself challenged again this year when he runs for another term as Newark South Ward Democratic Chairman. Willie's tenacious hold on leadership in the Democratic Party and I can't see him letting go without a fight to the death.

Over the years he has developed into a suave, urbane political technician and those who have tried to oust him have discovered how firmly he has secured his position as chairman and Assembly representative in the 29th Dist.

On a more pleasant political note, the engagement of Princeton Mayor Michele L. Tuck to Rhinold L. Ponder, is official. Tuck's good friends, Shante and Rhinold Davis, hosted an engagement announcement party for the happy couple at Princeton's Triumph Brewing Company where it was wartime time for family and close friends. May they live happily ever after.

Rainbow petition drive for 'urban policy'

The following is a resolution prepared by the Rainbow Coalition request President Clinton to host a White House Conference on Urban Policy to address and put forward solutions to the problems facing America's urban areas. Please sign and return to The Rainbow Coalition at 1700 K St., NW #800 Washington, DC 20006.

WASHINGTON, DC—We have a national urban crisis. We all know it, but no one who can do anything about it wants to talk about it. Politicians are afraid to talk about our cities—cities are misperceived as a "black concern"—or are in denial. But every day our urban areas are more abandoned and falling deeper into despair. It is both costly and immoral to continue down this road. We need a comprehensive national urban policy.

When World War II left Europe and Asia in ruins, we did not offer them a plan for behavior modification or lecture them on personal responsibility. We helped them rebuild their infrastructures, grow their economies and create markets for our goods.

To Germany and Japan, our former enemies, we offered a Marshall and a MacArthur Plan. We invested in freedom, democracy and hope. We need to reinvest in and rebuild America, put our people back to work, rebuild our national infrastructure—our railroads, airports, dams, ports, bridges, roads and sewers—and replace despair with hope.

Therefore, the Rainbow calls upon President Bill Clinton to host a White House Conference on Urban Policy. You can help by getting people—where you work, in your religious community, at your school, your neighbors—to sign the following petition:

WHEREAS, the cities of this nation are suffering under enormous burdens and stresses; and

WHEREAS, we cannot maintain America's greatness with one out of every four of our children—and one out of every two African-American children—living in poverty; and

WHEREAS, in most of our major cities there is a new jail and a new stadium, the hallmarks of America's urban downturns—two mountains, with a dark canyon of poverty and despair in between; and

WHEREAS, one-half of all the public housing built in this country in the last decade is made up of jail cells; and

WHEREAS, more than 30 years after Watts, and almost four years since Los Angeles erupted in the wake of the Rodney King police brutality trial, this country still has no national urban policy; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America has no plan to reinvest in its critical infrastructure, no plan to rebuild our cities, no plan to reclaim our urban youth from the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, at the end of World War II, this nation did not stand still by but instead created the Marshall Plan and the MacArthur Plan to reinvest in the devastated economies of Europe and Asia—both its allies and its enemies—in order to promote peace, establish democracy and create healthy markets for our goods; and

WHEREAS, when America decided to support the Solidarity Movement, we offered Poland a serious plan for development and growth, a plan with real investment—40-year loans at 34/4 of 19 percent interest, first payment due in 10 years; and

WHEREAS, we need to "green-line" our red-lined urban areas, to give America's urban youth a chance; and

WHEREAS, we need to gather urban policy experts and activists together to devise a plan to rebuild our cities for the next century.

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we call President Clinton to host a "White House Conference on Urban Policy" to discuss the problems of our cities, and detail the solutions that we need to rebuild urban America; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we hereby petition the President to appoint a "National Urban Policy Commission" charged with the duty of formulating an action plan to save our cities.

We, the undersigned, do respectfully request that the President hear our plea.

The great Hollywood blackout

by Sharon Khadijah Vincent



There has been a lot of discussion over the past two weeks about racism in the film, television and entertainment industry. The mainstream media's focus of attention on this issue has been apparently fueled by an article appearing in *People* magazine titled, "The Hollywood black-out."

Since I don't subscribe to or read *People* magazine because of their own "black-out," I have been spending my time on-line in the supermarket reading the article (why should I pay to support my own oppression?) to understand first what prompted this sudden attention on a problem that we as blacks are very aware of.

The "black-out" in Hollywood is just one example of the "black-out" in virtually every industry in America. Yes, we have made tremendous gains

and progress over the years, but we have a very long way to go. Even the gains that were made are under attack and the progress achieved is fading away. Racism in America is like a cancer multiplying and destroying itself. Hollywood (a.k.a. "Hollywood Town") may be a place where illusions are created and made, but racism, even in the land of make-believe is still pervasive and unchecked.

Reverend Jesse Jackson announced plans to stage a boycott of the Oscar Awards ceremony to bring attention to the "black-out" of the Oscars by the Academy. I'm sure whatever efforts are made to help bring attention to this problem are appreciated.

The real protest though, should come from the black community at large. That protest would involve our refusal to continue to watch shows on television, or pay exorbitant movie ticket prices to see films that do not employ blacks as writers, producers, directors, technicians, actors, etc.

One of the most popular shows on

TV right now, *Friends*, appearing on NBC, has no major black characters featured. If this show is supposed to be symbolic of the average lives of white America's, so-called "Generation X," then we can certainly see why racism is just as prevalent as ever, right here in America.

These young white men and women live in their own insular world and their exposure to other races and cultures are extremely limited. With this limited interaction with other races and groups, is it any wonder that racism continues to breed and fester in this country?

Over the past year the number of blacks appearing in starring roles on television and film has diminished. While we can blame white executives who ultimately make the decisions about what films get financed and distributed, or put on TV, we have to look at how our own community helps to foster our own oppression.

We continue to buy tickets to the movies that don't feature blacks in starring roles, and we continue to

watch television in record numbers. If we represent almost 45 percent of the movie ticket buyers, yet, only 2 percent of the roles cast feature blacks in predominant roles, whose fault is it that the trend continues?

We need to take a stand by using our economic clout. If we stop buying tickets to films that continually depict one-sided view or who we are stop buying tickets to movies or watching shows that don't employ blacks then a powerful message will be sent and heard.

This won't require a tremendous sacrifice for anyone, it just means exercising some discipline, and taking a principle stand on issues that we feel are important. Moaning or groaning about what white executives continue to do to us is insufficient and a complete waste of time.

We can and must control our own purses, and keeping them closed until the doors of opportunity are opened wider for us is absolutely essential in ending America's "black-out," all across this country.

FROM CAPITOL HILL

Clinton real target of Farrakhan attack

by Asika Muhammad



Putting Minister Louis Farrakhan in front of a Congressional committee on live television would be like throwing the proverbial "Br'er Rabbit" into the briar patch. Rep. Peter King who describes himself as the congressional critic of the Nation of Islam leader—is smart enough to realize that.

Rep. King's International Relations Subcommittee looking into attempts by so-called "rogue regimes" to influence U.S. policies did not pose a face or a law. Min. Farrakhan is not the real target of the attack. Pres. Bill Clinton is.

Last week at an appearance at the Heritage Foundation, Rep. King he would ask government officials if Min. Farrakhan violated any laws in any of the 18 nations visited on last month's World Friendship Tour. If there were no violations, he said, then the laws need to be strengthened. To paraphrase Jean Paul Sartre from his book *The Anti-Semite and The Jew*, the violation didn't exist, the legislator would invent one.

But no government officials showed up to testify. Only so-called foreign policy and terrorism "experts," who in fact engaged in a Witch Hunt, an inquisition.

"We believe there is a political motive to what is going on," NOI Chief of Staff Leonard Farrakhan Muhammad said at an Intem Temporarily following the Capitol Hill hearing last week. He and other supporters of Min. Farrakhan were not permitted to testify. "We not only saw a hearing focused on destroying the good name

and reputation of Min. Farrakhan, but we saw a hearing that was designed to force Pres. Clinton to do something against good political sense, to attack Louis Farrakhan and hurt himself in his own base, nationwide."

This is a political year. The hearings today were used to embarrass Pres. Clinton, to try to force him to take on Louis Farrakhan so that his vote in the Black community in November will be weak. Shame on you! Mr. Muhammad said.

I suspect Rep. King's goal in trying to get State Department, Treasury Department, and Justice Department representatives to testify about the activities of the Muslim leader, is similar to his destructive strategy employed last year.

Last March, Rep. King grilled Pres. Clinton's HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros before a House Banking Subcommittee regarding security contracts in crime-ridden, low-income housing projects held by firms affiliated with Nation of Islam members. What King failed to do however, was question any of the residents who actually live in these housing.

Sure enough, two months later contracts which had been approved were reviewed, and eventually canceled. Sadly for the residents involved, criminal activity and violence often followed the departure of the unnamed Muslim guards.

This latest anti-Farrakhan hysteria can't be a hearing that is unjustified. I have traveled with him every step of the world tour. I am shocked at the blatant censorship that this country has enforced on every piece of good news in countries friendly to the U.S.—like Senegal, Ghana, Mozambique, Liberia, Sierra Leone, the Gambia, Turkey, or Saudi Arabia.

Worse still, was the total distortion of what really happened in so-called "rogue" countries in stories that did appear.

Even in South Africa (hardly a "rogue regime"), Pres. Nelson Mandela did not "lecture" Min. Farrakhan on race relations. What he said was that, "...There was no issue that arose on which there was disagreement." Min. Farrakhan's views, Pres. Mandela said, "are identical with the principles that I put forward."

In Iran, Min. Farrakhan did not promise the destruction of America at the "hands of the Muslims." Indeed, after listening to hundreds and hundreds of thousands of Iranians chant-

ing "death to America, death to Israel," Min. Farrakhan instead told the crowd at Freedom Square on the 17th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, February 11.

"The problem in the Muslim world is not America, nor is it Israel, nor is it the West. The problem in the Muslim world is that our world has deviated from the path of Prophet Muhammad and the teaching of the Holy Qur'an."

As is so often the case with this misundstood messenger, there was much heat, but little light generated by the International Relations Committee. And if the President and his advisers are not careful, Mr. Clinton will be the one who gets burned.

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Quote of the week

That man over there says that women need to be helped into carriages, and lifted over ditches, and to have the best place everywhere. Nobody ever helps me into carriages, or over mud puddles, or gives me any best place! And ain't I a woman?

—Sojourner Truth, 1851.

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YOUTHBEAT

NJ students win 1st and 2nd place in Coca Cola art contest

The winning paintings



First place



Second place



Third place



Pictured (l-r) Tom Brown dir. African-American consumer marketing, Coca-Cola NY; 3rd place winner Cindy Pardo; Gus Ferreira, dir. special markets Coca-Cola NY; 2nd place winner Jylferra Knox; 1st place winner Vashawn Balkcom and Giuseppe D'Alessandro, field marketing manager, Coca-Cola USA.

NEW YORK—Coca-Cola recently announced the winners of its third annual "Coca-Cola Presents The Art of Harmony: An Art Competition for High School Students."

First place winner, Vashawn Balkcom, a senior from Orange High School in Orange, received a \$5,000 U.S. Savings Bond. Second place was awarded to Jylferra S. Knox, a sophomore from Arc High School in Newark, with third place going to Cindy Pardo, a junior at Central Islip High School in Central Islip, NY. Knox and Pardo each received a \$2,500 U.S. Savings Bond.

The winners were selected from over 400 entries from schools in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut on the theme of "Living in Harmony."

"Coca-Cola is committed to making a difference through community partnerships," said Giuseppe D'Alessandro, Field Marketing Manager, Coca-Cola USA. "We are proud of this program because it encourages

artistic self-expression among students and showcases their inherent creative abilities via the murals."

First place winner, Vashawn Balkcom, submitted a colored pencil drawing entitled, "Mix It Up." It is an intricate sketch of a teenage artist drawing his view of New York City while drinking a can of Coca-Cola Classic.

Jylferra S. Knox, used tempera paints to create her work entitled, "Quilt of Harmony," a patchwork quilt being sewn together with a kaleidoscope of fabric swatches representing different groups of people.

Cindy Pardo, utilized pastel paints to create her work entitled simply, "Living in Harmony," which features two faces whose portraits form a multicultural design.

Nine additional works have been selected to form an art tour that will travel throughout the NY tri-state area this spring.

INROADS' career workshop weekend

EAST BRUNSWICK—INROADS/Central New Jersey, Inc., will conduct the last of its talent pool weekend workshops on Saturday, March 30.

The workshop will be held at the AT&T Tower in East Brunswick from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Approximately 200 high school

and college students will participate in the workshop which is designed to assist them in pursuing their career goals and preparing them for specific internships with corporations.

Workshops include Career Overview and interview practice sessions.

Internship opportunities

TRENTON—The NJSCA and the Rutgers Graduate School of Management are co-sponsors of an Arts Management Internship program that allows students to work directly with cultural personnel in program areas including Grants, Arts in Education, Folk Arts, Marketing, Visual Arts, and Arts Inclusion projects.

Students work an average of 40 hours per week during a 12-week internship. They see individual projects through

to completion and gain an overview of governmental arts support and policy.

In addition, interns will have the chance to attend various meetings, conferences, and site visits that pertain to various arts initiatives in the State. A stipend is provided. Contact Tom Mottin, Visual Arts Coordinator, NJSCA, 609-292-6130, or Pat Katterberg, Director, Rutgers Business and the Arts Program, 201-648-5961.

Books for growing

Arctic Babies/Rain Forest Babies

by Kathy Darling
Photos by Tara Darling



Arctic Babies Walker and Company, March 1996) introduces the bundles of feathers, fur, and fat that live in the icy cold of the Far North. Look into the wide blue eyes of a Lynx kitten just two weeks old. Admire a caribou calf's velvety brand-new antlers. Meet a baby polar bear snuggled against its mother.

Rain Forest Babies welcomes you to lush green tropical rain forests teeming with baby animals of every kind, from 300-pound baby elephants to young manatees no bigger than your hand, to tiny jewel-like poisonous frogs.

Renowned animal experts Kathy and Tara Darling traveled six continents to research and photograph these adorable animals. Kathy's lively descriptions feature facts about the different environments and tell each baby's vital statistics, while Tara's photographs capture these amazing creatures at their playful best.

Exotic Invaders Killer Bees, Fire Ants, and Other Alien Species

by Jeanne M. Lesinski



Full of startling facts and vivid color photos, **Exotic Invaders** (Walker and Company, March 1996) will captivate readers through its dynamic design and unusual subject. Jeanne M. Lesinski's first book for young readers tracks five invasive creatures that threaten the full impact of our environment.

The sea lamprey, the first of the zebra mussels, the European starling, and the African honey bee (known as the "killer bee") are some of the most infamous and aggressive non-native species in the country.

Each of them has fully infiltrated its ecosystem, despite ongoing human intervention. Lesinski gives practical advice on how to control the spread of exotic invaders. More than anything, however, her book is an object lesson in the ways of nature.

Jeanne Lesinski is a magazine writer and a contributing author and editor for reference works.

This Week in Black History

- MARCH 27**
1862 - Sculptor and educator Augusta Savage is born.
1924 - Singer Sarah Vaughn is born.
1969 - Black Academy of Arts and Letters established in Boston.
1984 - Pres-Ahmed Sekou Touré, president of Guinea, dies.
MARCH 28
1799 - Slavery is outlawed by United States Legislature.
1870 - Jonathan Wright becomes the first African-American state Supreme Court Justice in South Carolina.
1914 - Sol Butler sets track record.
1925 - poet Countee Cullen wins Phi Beta Kappa honors at New York University.
1925 - Sculptor Ed Wilson is born in Baltimore, MD.
1966 - Bill Russell is named head coach of the Boston Celtics, the first African-American to coach an NBA team.
1984 - Educator and civil rights activist Benjamin Mays dies in Atlanta, GA.
MARCH 29
1815 - Napoleon bans slave trade.
1918 - Singer Pearl Bailey is born.
1945 - Basketball player Walt Frazier is born in Atlanta, GA.
1959 - President and founder of the Central African Republic Barthélemy Boganda dies in a plane crash.
MARCH 30
1870 - The 15th Amendment is incorporated, after being founded in 1920 at New York University.
1932 - The New York Renaissance, one of the best-known African-American basketball teams, beats the Boston Celtics by three points to win their first world professional championship, the first by an African-American team.
1946 - St. Elizabeth's Hospital opens on Broadway.
1948 - Fashion model and beauty company founder Naomi Sims is born in Oxford, MS.
1967 - Author Jean Toomer dies.
1989 - Clarence Page, Chicago Tribune columnist, receives Pulitzer Prize for commentary.
MARCH 31
1853 - At concert singer Elizabeth Taylor Greenfield's, New York debut in Menlo Park, NJ, African-American are not allowed to attend. Angered and embarrassed, Greenfield performs a separate concert at the Broadway Tabernacle.
APRIL 1
1868 - Hampton Institute is founded in Hampton, VA.
1905 - Oscar Micheaux, film producer, dies in Charlotte, NC.
1917 - Scott Joplin, leader of ragtime, dies in New York.
1930 - Zawditi, first reigning female monarch of Ethiopia, dies.
1951 - Oscar Micheaux, film producer, dies in Charlotte, NC.
1955 - African National Congress boycotts segregated schools required by Brown Education Act in South Africa.
1966 - The first World Festival of Negro Arts opens in Dakar, Senegal, with the U.S. African-American delegation having one of the largest number of representatives.
APRIL 2
1855 - John Mercer Langston is elected clerk of Brownhelm, OH. He is considered the first African-American official to be elected to public office.
1918 - Charles White, artist, is born in Chicago, IL.
1922 - Bill Pickett, well-known cowboy who was acclaimed by President Theodore Roosevelt as "one of the best trained ropers and riders the West has produced," dies.
1939 - Marvin Gaye, singer, writer, producer, is born in Washington, DC.
1984 - Coach John Thompson of Georgetown University becomes first African-American coach to win the NCAA basketball tournament.

Kids' Calendar

THURSDAY, MARCH 29
JERSEY CITY—JCSJ will offer the Saturday Gifted and Talented Education program for talented youth in grades four through six on consecutive Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. For tuition info call 201-200-3089.

MARCH 27 & 28
CRANFORD—Teen Arts Festival at UCC 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more info call 908-558-2550.

FRIDAY, MARCH 29
LINCOLN—Brookside Community College features The African-American/ Native American Connection at its "Youth Day" program, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. 103. For more info call 908-224-2385.

SATURDAY, MARCH 30
JERSEY CITY—JCSJ review course for the SAT through its Saturday course from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. For tuition info call 201-200-3089.

NEWARK—WEGO children's concert series features artist Valerie Capers at the Pryor St. Theatre's Plaza at noon. For more info call 201-624-8880.

THURSDAY, MARCH 29
JERSEY CITY—Spanish Enrichment for Children, a ten-part Saturday course at JCSJ for children of Hispanic heritage in grades K thru six. For more info call 201-200-3089.

APRIL 2 THURSDAY
NEW BRUNSWICK—Sesame Street Live: When I Grow Up at the State Theatre. For tickets call 908-246-7469.

APRIL 13 & 14
NEW YORK—Contemporary at Seaside Aquarium for its 100th anniversary, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Live entertainment, horseshoe crab storytelling, talk with the penguin mascot and create deep-sea bathysphere fun fact cards. For more info call the aquarium 718-265-FISH.

APRIL 13 & 20
JERSEY CITY—JCSJ will offer a review course for the SAT through its Saturday course from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. For tuition info call 201-200-3089.

SUNDAY, APRIL 14
MORRISTOWN—Morristown Beard School invites you to an Open House beginning at 1 p.m. for middle school students and 2 p.m. for upper class students. For more info call the school at 201-539-3032 ext. 540.

Calendar listings should be sent two weeks in advance to ensure publication

Mayor's basketball tournament kicks off

NEWARK—Just when you thought you were safe from the "March Madness" basketball, the Newark Division of Recreation and Adult Affairs is sponsoring the 1996 "Mayor's Basketball Tournament" scheduled for April 8-12 at West Side High School. Only the first 10 teams to apply will be selected. The event open to Newark residents only, is divided into male and female divisions and age categories (9-14, and 18 & over). Refundable registration or fees are set for each respective age category at \$50, \$60 and \$80. Registration deadline is March 29. Entry forms are available in the DORCA office, Rm. 0-23 City Hall. For more info call 733-3749.

Oliver and Company is coming



A motley group of street-smart canines welcomes a homeless kitten named Oliver into their ranks, providing companionship and adventure.

NEW YORK, NY—Set against the skyline, streets and subway of modern day New York City, *Oliver and Company* is the contemporary re-telling of Dickens' classic story and introduces a colorful cast of animal and human characters along with five outstanding original songs performed by top talents as Billy Joel, Bette Midler, Hue Lewis, and Ruth Pointer. *Oliver & Company* follows the misadventures of an orphaned kitten, Oliver, voiced by Jack Lawrence. Oliver is taken in by a pack of pickpocket dogs who rescue him from kidnappers.

When a little girl from Fifth Ave., Linda Oliver and takes him upon to live among the "swells," Fagin's evil boss, Sykes steps in and kidnaps the pup. However, his nasty plan to keep Oliver from having his customary nine lives, is foiled when the rascally "Boss" won't cry babies decide to use their street knowledge to rescue their feline friend.

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For a good cause



PLAINFIELD—Members of Youth For United Way, a community service club of Linden High School donated clothing to the YMCA of Plainfield to benefit people living at the Y's homeless shelter.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Billboard

THURSDAY, MARCH 28
EDISON—"An Evening of Good Taste," hosted by the Arc of Union County, at the Victorian Manor, Edison, starting at 6:30 p.m. For more info call 908-734-7826.

FRIDAY, MARCH 29
NEWARK—Film Program at Ajira, a Center for Contemporary Art, 7:30 p.m. For more info call 201-624-1584.

MARCH 29 & 30
SCOTCH PLAINS—Musical Me and My Girl, 8 p.m. at Union Catholic Regional High School featuring the Performance Arts Company of Union County. For tickets call 908-689-1600.

MARCH 29 THRU 31
ATLANTIC CITY—Arnie Murray in concert at the Bally's Park Place Casino Hotel in the Main Ballroom. For times and tickets call 609-340-2709.

THUR MARCH 30
NEW YORK—"A Piece of My Heart," an untold story of the women who served in the Vietnam War, presented by Yankee Rep., at Henry Street Settlement Above Arts Center, for more info call 212-677-4079.

NORTH BRANCH—Romantic Music Poetry in Sound at the Edward Nash Theatre, Raritan Valley Community College at 8 p.m. For ticket info call 908-725-3420.

THRU MARCH 31
PRINCETON—The Misanthrope by Moliere at the McCarter Theatre. For info call 609-683-8000.

NEWARK—"Africaus the King," written by Kaba Chai Davies at the African Globe Studio Theatre. For more info call 201-624-1584.

SUNDAY, MARCH 31
MONTCLAIR—A Celebration of Culture at Montclair Art Museum featuring the exhibition Public Monuments. For more info call 201-746-5555.

ORANGE—A Touch of Jazz Spring Festival at the Poppermint Entertainment Complex, 6:30 to 11 p.m. featuring Houston Person & Elta Jones, Cedar Brooks III Band with special guest Don Braden. For tickets call Ernest Jones at 908-572-8267 or Les Wornack at 908-819-1453.

THRU APRIL 7
NEW BRUNSWICK—Fear Itself at Crossroads Theatre. For info call 908-249-5550.

THRU APRIL 21
NEW BRUNSWICK—The Miracle Worker at the George Street Playhouse. For info call 908-246-7717.

APRIL 3 THRU MAY 26
MILL BURN—Call Me Madam by Irving Berlin, starring Leslie Uggams at the Paper Mill Playhouse. For info call 201-376-4343.

FRIDAY, APRIL 12
ATLANTIC CITY—Big Band Dance Party at The Grand For ticket info call TicketMaster at 800-736-1420.

APRIL 20 THRU MAY 26
NEW BRUNSWICK—The Sevens in Porchat Crossroads Theatre. For info call 908-249-5550.

MAY 2 THRU 19
TRENTON—Signature by Beth Henley at the Passage Theatre Company. For info call 609-352-0765.

MAY 4 - JUNE 2
NEW BRUNSWICK—Treats the George Street Playhouse. For info call 908-246-7717.

MAY 7 THRU 26
PRINCETON—A Doll House by Henrik Ibsen at the McCarter Theatre. For info call 609-683-8000.

Calendar listings should be sent two weeks in advance to ensure publication

Waiting to Exhale coming to video

NEW YORK—If you are still waiting to exhale because you haven't seen the movie, well wait no more. The highly acclaimed *Waiting to Exhale* will make its debut on home video April 23. Upon grossing approximately \$70 million theatrically, the video will be sold for \$19.98. Now there is no reason why you too can't exhale.

Artists/Teachers Institute

GLASSBORO—This year's Artists/Teachers Institute (ATI) will be held at Rowan College, Glassboro, NJ from July 17 through the 26. For information, please contact the Alliance for Arts Education/NJ at 201-748-1188.

Paving The Way



Four remarkable women of the 1950s who set their own course—and refused to let the era define their lives and aspirations share the story of their trials and triumphs in Thirteen/WNET's presentation of *Paving The Way*. The one-hour special features inspiring interviews with (Clockwise from top) Major General Jeanne Holm, Congresswoman Patsy Mink (D-HI), the Reverend Addie Wyatt, the first African-American woman elected president of the United Packinghouse Food and Allied Workers Union, and Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. *Paving The Way* premieres Friday, April 5 at 8 p.m. on PBS. Check local listings.

The Stylistics celebrate 25 years



SOUTH AMBOY—One of the smoothest R&B groups ever, The Stylistics will be celebrating 25 years of making wonderful music in a one-night concert at Club Bené Dinner Theatre. The show will be held on Saturday, March 30 at 9 p.m. with an optional dinner at 7 p.m. The group consists of Russell Thompkins, Jr., Airmon Love, and Herb Myreel...collectively they are one of the best loved and longest

lasting R&B groups. Beginning in 1971 with their first Top Ten Single *You're A Big Girl Now*, The Stylistics continued to exist at the top of the charts with 12 consecutive top ten soul hits including *You Make Me Feel Brand New*, *Break Up To Make Up, You're My Everything*, *I'm Gone In Love With You*, *Their LP The Best of The Stylistics* recently went Double Platinum, in other words it sold over 4 million albums.

Art throughout the cities

NEWARK—The Carter G. Woodson Foundation's ninth annual OnStage In New Jersey performing arts series runs a gamut of entertainment with equally talented performers.

Reverend Shirley Caesar will perform songs from her new album *Shirley Caesar Live...He Will Come* on Friday, April 5 at 8 p.m. at St. Paul's Baptist Church in Montclair. Joining Reverend Caesar at this Good Friday performance will be the North Jersey Philharmonic Glee Club and host Carol Woods. Tickets for this event will be \$35 and \$20.

Thursday, April 18 marks the second presentation in the series with the Families that Write Together, presenting Richard and Valerie Wilson Wesley and Amiri, Aminia and Ras Baraka. Max Rodriguez, publisher of The Quarterly Black Review of Books will host the evening.

April 26 is the day that the a capella sensation *Sweet Honey In The Rock* returns to Newark's own Symphony Hall. This 8 p.m. event will feature the group's latest recording *Sacred Ground*.

Their folk interpretation of Gospel, Jazz and Blues always captures audiences, sending a spiritual message through their music. The evening will be hosted by film and television director, Oz Scott.

The Heath Family Music: 150 Years and Counting will grace the stage of the Van Fossen Theatre located at Bloomfield College on May 10 at 8 p.m. This talented family includes saxophonist/composer Jimmy Heath, drummer, Albert "Tootie" Heath and bassist Percy Heath of the Modern Jazz Quartet.

The youngest Heath, James Mume, is already an acclaimed musician/composer. We continue to hear his music every week as he

scores the music for FOX Television's *New York Undercover*.

Newark As An Impetuous to Write featuring Richard Wesley, Amiri Baraka and Claude Brown will conclude the Literary Festival on Thursday, May 16. Dr. Clement Price will be the host for this event.

Onstage will present the taping talents of dance impresario Gregory Hines (schedule permitting) as he joins artistic director Deborah Mitchell and her New Jersey Tap Ensemble in *Rhythm Is Our Business* at the Wilkins Theatre at Keun College in Union on Friday, May 17 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15 to \$40.

OnStage in New Jersey is a performing arts subscription series that presents America's most celebrated African-American artists to New Jersey audiences. For more information on events call the Woodson Foundation at 201-242-0500.



Sweet Honey in the Rock



Shirley Caesar



The Heath Brothers



Valerie Wilson Wesley



Amiri Baraka



NJ Tap Ensemble

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BUSINESS

Kweisi Mfume to address national entrepreneurs' seminar

Business Calendar

THRU MARCH 29

CHERRY HILL—NAMC will hold three Superfund Training workshops at the Professional Safety Training Services Center at 12 North Scitago Rd. in Cherry Hill. For more info call 202-347-8259.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27

NEW BRUNSWICK—Twenty-first annual Energy Technology Conference at Rutgers Continuing Education Center. For workshop times call 908-879-8351.

MARCH 28 TO 31

PRINCETON—Nineteenth Annual Career Conference sponsored by Minority Interchange Inc. at the Merrill Lynch Conference and Training Center. For more info call Elaine Rogers at 212-576-6634.

SATURDAY, MARCH 30

JERSEY CITY—Free seminar. How Important is Personal Financing? at JSCC, 10 to 11 a.m. For more info call 201-200-3089.

TUESDAY, APRIL 2

HOLD THE DATE—Join the Regional Business partnership for a networking cruise aboard the Spirit of New Jersey. For more info call 201-542-6237.

APRIL 10 THRU 12

BOSTON, MA—Managing Superior Customer Service Seminar at the Sheraton Boston Hotel sponsored by American Management Association (AMA). For more info call 1-800-262-9699.

THURSDAY, APRIL 11

CAMDEN—Sixth Annual Venture Fair 1 to 6:30 p.m. at the Sony Blockbuster Music Center. For more info call 609-985-1300.

THURSDAY, APRIL 11

JERSEY CITY—Free seminar. How to Invest Wisely at JSCC, 10 to 11 a.m. For more info call 201-200-3089.

SATURDAY, APRIL 15

SADDLE BROOK—Wages, Hours & Pay, a seminar for NJ personnel and Payroll Managers. Holiday Inn & Conference Center. For info call 201-843-0000.

APRIL 15 THRU 17

WASHINGTON, DC—Managing Superior Customer Service seminar at AMA Management Center 440 First St. NW. For more info call 1-800-262-9699.

Calendar listings should be sent two weeks in advance to ensure publication

NEW YORK—Black Enterprise Magazine has announced its 1996 Black Enterprise/NationsBank Entrepreneurs Conference scheduled for May 1 to 5, at Walt Disney World's Grand Floridian Beach Resort in Lake Buena Vista, FL.

NAACP President and CEO Kweisi Mfume will address over 500 black entrepreneurs and professionals as the keynote speaker at the First Black Enterprise Entrepreneurs Awards Dinner.

NationsBank Corporation Presi-

dent Ken Lewis will participate in the conference and present the Black Enterprise Entrepreneur of the Year Award. The company is the title sponsor of the conference.

Loida Lewis, Chairperson of TLC Beatrice International Holdings will make a special presentation. For the past seven years, the New York-based company has held the number one spot as the nation's largest black-owned business on the BE 1000 Industrial Services list.

Conference highlights include:

- Strategic Alliances: The Key to Competing in the 90's and Beyond
- Securing Capital for Expansion and Acquisitions
- Surfing for Profits: Using the Internet for Business Success
- Kidpreneur Conference—the first national program designed to teach African American children and young adults the basic elements of business ownership
- The Exchange: A Business-to-Business Expo where participants will have

See ENTREPRENEUR SEMINAR page 10

Product liability reform called 'key vote' for American business

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Chamber of Commerce has announced that product liability reform legislation scheduled for a vote in the Senate will provide important protections from frivolous lawsuits for many small businesses, including manufacturers, distributors and sellers of products.

"The protections offered by this

bill against outlandish and seemingly irrational court judgments on product liability are absolutely essential for many American businesses," said Bruce Josten, U.S. Chamber senior vice president.

However, President Clinton recently stated that he would veto such a legislation, despite previous sen-

ments that he would support meaningful product liability reform at the federal level. According to Josten this "is a slap in the face to American businesses—particularly small businesses—and shows him once again saying one thing and doing another."

At a press conference with senators of both parties present, major business organizations including the Chamber singled out the vote in the Senate as a "key vote" for the organi-

See PRODUCT LIABILITY page 10

DNC training academies seek participants

WASHINGTON, DC—The Democratic National Committee's Campaign Training Academy is actively recruiting African Americans to enroll in an intense and comprehensive program designed to train a new generation of Democratic professionals and activists.

The next Democratic Campaign Training Academy will be held in mid-April in Somerset. The Academies are traveling across the country and anticipate training over 3,000 Democrats by June of 1996.

The Academies offer different tracks of training, each in a distinct campaign discipline including: state-wide managers, congressional/state legislative managers, communications directors, finance directors, research directors, field directors, and campaign activists.

There is an appropriate track of training for every level of experience, from entry level campaign staffers to experienced campaign managers.

April 1 is the deadline to apply for the April 19-24 Somerset training session. The DNC is also seeking volunteer help from student organizations,

community groups, and individuals during the training. For applications and further information, contact Jocelyn Woodards 202-488-5070 or Candrea Scott 202-488-5052.

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Camden	33,120	Ocean	36,320
Essex	39,520	Passaic	42,160
Glooucester	33,120	Somerset	43,680
Hudson	28,240	Union	39,520
Middlesex	43,680	Warren	30,880

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Shore chapter of NCNW honors president

by Ron Holland

NEPTUNE—The National Council of Negro Women North Shore Section, recently held its 13th annual Founders Day celebration at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Presbyterian Church in Neptune.

The 100-member group honored its president Dorothy A. McBride with the Mahalia Field Aitchison Award. The award, which was initiated in 1989, is named after the educator and humanitarian, whose accomplishments are recognized by prominent church and civil

organizations throughout the state.

McBride, who is serving a second term as the group's president, said she was deeply honored to be awarded and acknowledged that Aitchison was a mentor and has always been a source of encouragement to her.

"She was a community-minded and people person. She was an advocate of change and wanted people to do better; that is what she was all about," McBride stated of Aitchison.

McBride reports that the organization has had a series of great accomplishments, the proudest being the December 8, 1995

opening of its national headquarters in Washington, DC.

"It's the first time in history of black America we have owned a building. To have something to say this is ours! That was a proud moment for me," she remembers.

Highlighting the afternoon was a concert by gospel group Pro-Vision. The five-member male group ministered in song and brought nearly all 200 people to their feet, prompting several ovations. The North Shore Chapter of the National Council of Negro Women is currently accepting applications from men and women.

NJ towns ban tobacco sales to kids

SUMMIT—Vending machines and self-service racks sell cigarettes to children. But New Jersey towns are doing something about the problem, with help from the New Jersey Group Against Smoking Pollution (GASP). Eighty-nine New Jersey towns—twice as many as in any other state—have enacted legislation to stop tobacco sales to children.

Fifty-eight towns have banned vending machines altogether. Thirty have banned the racks.

Green and Growing Try OTC—Objective Turf Care

by Dr. Ellen Henke

When we get the sniffles or chills, most of us drop by the drug store to pick up an OTC—or over-the-counter—medicine—to make us well. When things seem a little more serious, we go to a professional. Our lawn's problems can be dealt with in a similar way.

By following the proper guidelines we can avoid many lawn problems. This is the Objective Turf Care (OTC) approach.

If a problem develops, first examine the symptoms. If an OTC approach can work, you can nurse your lawn back to good health by yourself. The following is information about how to diagnose and solve some common lawn problems.

Thatch is one of the biggest factors contributing to lawn problems. Thatch restricts the flow of air, water and fertilizer into the soil, weakening the lawn and making it more susceptible to disease. If you have more than a half-inch of thatch, rent a vertical-cutting

machine or core aerator and remove it.

Yellowing is a common lawn problem due to lack of nitrogen since nitrogen is the nutrient most needed by lawns. Most lawns need fertilizer every year—if you haven't been applying fertilizer, your lawn is probably slightly yellow and may be growing a little slower than it should. If after fertilizing at the manufacturer's recommended rate your lawn still has a yellow tint and slow growth, the problem could be a lack of iron or an improper pH level.

A soil test will tell you exactly what your lawn needs. If it's iron, applying iron as a liquid spray or in combination with nitrogen and water should do the trick. If the pH level is the problem, add lime if it's too acidic and ammonium sulfate if it's too alkaline.

Leaf Spot normally occurs from a botanist to November and most often attacks Bermudagrass, Fescue and Kentucky bluegrass. The disease causes elongated,

circular spots with brown or straw-colored centers and black borders. To fight leaf spot, plant a mixture of sun-and-shade-tolerant varieties of grass, improve aeration and drainage, mow at the recommended height, and don't overfertilize.

Now you say, "But Doc, it's too late! I don't know what to do!" It's never too late. If your lawn is suffering from a disease that OTC's won't fix, consult the lawn Doc in your area—contacting at a nursery, a county extension advisor or a university turf specialist. And he advised, chicken soup does not work on sick lawns.

America's Plant Doctor and John Deere lawn and garden expert, Ellen Henke, is a botanist, garden writer and nationally recognized authority on "Earth Friendly" gardening.

CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICE	LEGAL NOTICE	LEGAL NOTICE	LEGAL NOTICE
<p>NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING</p> <p>NOTICE OF STATE FRESHWATER WETLANDS INDIVIDUAL PERMIT APPLICATION PUBLIC HEARING</p> <p>TAKE NOTICE that the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) will hold a public hearing on the following permit application submitted under the Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act, N.J.S.A. 13:27B, at the following location:</p> <p>APPLICANT: NJ TRANSIT FILE NUMBER: 00009-95-00104 PROJECT NAME: Initial Operating System of the Hudson Bergen Light Rail Transit System</p> <p>PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Implementation of a 4.5-mile light rail transit system extending south from Hudson Terminal to 34th Street in Bayonne with a western spur extending from the Gateway Park and Ride (near 1st Street) to West 20th Avenue in southwestern Jersey City.</p> <p>MUNICIPALITY: Hudson, Jersey City and Bayonne COUNTY: Hudson</p> <p>The NJ Department of Environmental Protection, Land Use Regulation Program invites the public to attend the hearing and present verbal or oral comments on the application.</p> <p>PLACE: Jersey City City Hall Council Chambers 280 Grove Street Jersey City, New Jersey DATE: April 30, 1996 TIME: 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.</p> <p>HEARING OFFICER: Eugene McCalligan, Section Chief NJDEP, Hudson Bergen Light Rail Transit System Phone No. (201) 964-1003</p> <p>A copy of the complete application is available for review at the following clerk's office in Hudson, Jersey City and Bayonne. The Land Use Regulation Program invites the public to submit written comments on the Freshwater Wetlands Individual Permit application within fifteen (15) days of the hearing to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection and Land Use Regulation Program, C-4201, Trenton, NJ 08620 Attention: Eugene McCalligan.</p> <p>STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION LAND USE REGULATION PROGRAM T-113-10 03/27/96</p> <p>FAX your bids and classifieds in City News at 908-754-1036</p>	<p>INVITATION TO BID</p> <p>A Bids Committee of the City of Plainfield will receive sealed bids at a meeting to be held in the Library of City Hall, 515 Washington Avenue, Plainfield, New Jersey at 3:00 P.M. on Monday, April 1, 1996. For:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Towing of delinquent, abandoned, stolen or vehicles used in the commission of a crime as well as heavy trucks, trailers or other equipment Animal Control Services Autoclave parts Footwear <p>Specifications and proposal forms on which your bid must be submitted, are available at the office of the Purchasing Agent, 515 Washington Avenue, Plainfield, New Jersey 07051 (908) 753-3211, Monday through Friday between 9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. The bids may be hand delivered or mailed but not sent to be received any later than the time at which the bids will be opened and read publicly.</p> <p>Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975, c. 127.</p> <p>The City Council reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive defects or informality in the bids or to accept any bid as shall deem for the best interest of the City of Plainfield.</p> <p>RICHARD V. RENGA PURCHASING AGENT FEE: \$65.30</p>	<p>Advertise Your Bids And Classifieds In City News.</p> <p>Call</p> <p>908-754-3400</p> <p>or FAX</p> <p>908-753-1036</p>	<p>CLASSIFIEDS</p> <p>PROOFREADER</p> <p>Successful candidate for this position will have 2+ years of proofreading experience. Job requires patience, attention to detail, flexibility, and ability to work with a team on meet deadlines. Strong grammar and language skills are essential. Send resume to:</p> <p>City News Publishing Company 144 North Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07060</p> <p>HELP WANTED</p> <p>Children's librarian, full-time temporary, approx. 3 mo., to start end of Apr., M-L, full-time temporary, send resume w/3 references by March 30 to Library Director, Clark Public Library, 303 Westfield Avenue, Clark, NJ 07066. Union County residents are encouraged to apply. Equal Opportunity Employer.</p> <p>INSIDE SALES</p> <p>City News has an immediate opening for an inside Sales Representative. Responsibilities include: selling advertising spots, soliciting sales from prospects and telemarketing for direct orders. Position requires a minimum of two years reporting experience and a Bachelor of Arts in journalism or communications. Ability to produce a high volume is a must. Experience with sales is a plus. Must have transportation. Send resume to:</p> <p>Reporter: City News Publishing Company 144 North Avenue, Plainfield, NJ 07060</p> <p>INSIDE SALES</p> <p>City News has an immediate opening for an inside Sales Representative. Responsibilities include: selling advertising spots, soliciting sales from prospects and telemarketing for direct orders. Position requires a minimum of two years reporting experience and a Bachelor of Arts in journalism or communications. Ability to produce a high volume is a must. Experience with sales is a plus. Must have transportation. 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Newark best friends celebrate success

Program shows decrease in teen pregnancy

NEWARK—Newark Best Friends, a program dedicated to helping young women deal with the pressures often leading to unwanted teen pregnancy, will celebrate a year of accomplishments and hope at a reception on Thursday, March 28.

Christine Chambers Gillilan, executive director of the MCI Foundation, will be honored for her efforts and

support of programs that have helped direct young women towards healthy, happy and fulfilling lives.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The Prudential Foundation will also be honored for their leadership and dedication to the cause of improved health for all New Jersey youth.

"This year's honorees have made

significant contributions to the success of the Best Friends program in the city of Newark," said Rose Marie V. Peterkin, president of the organization. "While it is too soon to document the full effect of the program, I am pleased to report that none of the current 350 Newark Best Friends participants have become pregnant or are drug abusers," Peterkin noted.

During the last 30 years, the United States has seen a dramatic rise in births to unwed teenage mothers. In 1960, 15 percent of births were to teens outside of marriage, compared with 71 percent of all teen births in 1992.

Statistics like these and their overwhelming impact on society as a whole led Elaine Bennett, Best Friends' national founder and Mrs. Colby Powell, national Best Friends council chair, to champion the cause of teen pregnancy prevention.

The program is an educational

device that fosters self-respect and promotes responsible behavior in adolescent girls.

Since its inception in 1987, the organization has been successful in helping hundreds of girls postpone sexual activity and to avoid drugs and alcohol.

The Best Friends curriculum has been adopted by schools in the District of Columbia, Silver Spring, Maryland; Newark and Orange, Seattle, WA; Charlotte, NC; Petersburg and Newport News, VA; Milwaukee, WI; and

Lawrence, MA.

Newark Best Friends is operated by the Freedom Foundation of New Jersey, Inc., a non-profit organization with individual contributions and grants from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Essex County Office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, The MCI Foundation, The Prudential Foundation, the Newark School District, PSE&G and Smith Barney, Inc.

For more information about Best Friends or the March 28 event, please call 201-642-8865 or 201-642-8808.

Plainfield choir

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chorus is any indication, the Vienna festival will be something to remember. The chorus performs a wide variety of music in their "Back to Rock"

Violence mars homes

Continued from page 1

made by officers from the nearby West Precinct, said police spokesman Detective Daniel Collins.

"The narcotics unit had made an additional 142 arrests, including 32 out-of-town, he said. "In the same period, 12 handguns have been recovered."

Presently the Newark police have a van canvassing the area as part of a "Neighborhood Stabilization" unit, dispatched recently to Stella Wright to deal with the heavy drug traffic. To also help in the battle against crime and drugs, a 10-man unit, which will include two detectives, is being created in a joint city-Essex County effort. It's the second time in a decade that police have had a major presence around the facility.

In 1987, Newark police created a mini-substation at the complex. When funds for the station ran out and it eventually closed, the crime and drug activity returned, said George Smiley, vice president of the tenants association.

"When I came to Stella Wright from Alabama in 1979, you could eat off the lobby floor," Smiley said. "We may not get back to that point, but if we could make this a safer place things would be better."

program, which also includes Motown, Broadway, opera and gospel.

One recent afternoon they performed "Give Me That Old Time Religion," "Count On Me" (by Whitney Houston and Cee Cee Winans), and "I Got Plenty Of Nothin'" for the seniors at the Robert Wood Johnson Jr. Health Center in Plainfield.

The skills of the chorus are greatly due to the training they receive from Minnie, who has been a music teacher in the district for 14 years, the last four at the high school. The Millburn resident also has a CD of gospel music about to be released, entitled "Finally."

As much as Minnie believes that they will all be going to Europe, she is convinced that once her students do get there they will fully understand why she has been so demanding.

Foodtown

Continued from page 1

sentatives have been nothing but rude when calls were made by City News and were rather shocked to hear that the store's closing would also affect at least two non-minority towns as well as Plainfield.

"Whenever somebody comes into a place to take the money and run, it shows they don't respect the area," said Plainfield resident Kevin Jones.

The news of the store closing was blow to the community, especially those residents that take public transportation to shop at the store. Without Foodtown in the city, many will have a hard time finding ways to get to food stores in other cities.

Alfonso

Continued from page 1

clients need through skilled counseling.

Alfonso Associates handles over 300 cases, ranging from capital murder to child custody, offering the specialized expertise of the forensic social worker. The company has a 100 percent success rate in all cases of battered women.

Toxic dumps

Continued from page 1

went clothing due to the tenderness."

While prison officials and spokesmen for the state Department of Corrections, Bob McHugh, believe there is no real threat because of air testings done in July 1994, the Newark City Council has taken its complaints to the Federal Environmental Protection Agency.

"Part of our concern is that the prison was built on a toxic waste site that's unsealed," said Martine. "We're just looking for some answers."

McHugh admitted that the site contained contaminants, from toxic waste dumped there by chemical companies in the 1960s and 1970s, when the prison was built. Periodic soil and air quality tests have revealed no problem, says McHugh, but that still leaves the numerous illnesses unexplained.

Product liability

Continued from page 8

zations' rankings of senators' pro-business records.

The bill approved by the Senate and House conferees puts caps on punitive damages awarded in product liability cases at \$250,000 or twice the amount of compensatory damages, whichever is greater. But in the case of small businesses, with fewer than 25 employees, it is the lesser of the two amounts.

NAACP priorities

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litigate for them.

People think that we can represent them as attorneys. The National NAACP litigates only class action suits, and for a class action suit you need 14 or more complainants.

Guest speaker, Wanda E. Flowers, Acting Regional Attorney for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), Philadelphia, explained the agency's functions and area of responsibility, and asked for the branches' input into the EEOC Law Enforcement Plan. Caughman emphasized that all branches should get copies of the EEO plans of their local and county governments and school districts.

According to James Harris, NJ NAACP Education Coordinator, "We need to go on record and take a positive position on the education of our children, hence every branch needs a pro-active education committee."

Harris led discussions on several issues, which were all approved for the position paper. The NAACP went on record as opposing state takeovers of school districts.

"State takeover is always about money first, not education, and there

Many faces

Continued from page 6

is a resource that enables communities and individuals to gain better understanding and appreciation of each other.

is no record that education improves under takeovers," said George Gore, Plainfield Branch president.

Other positions approved were the opposition of school vouchers, charter schools and school privatization.

Infant mortality

Continued from page 6

agencies such as Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies.

The pilot program will run until six weeks after all 200 women have delivered their babies. Deputy Commissioner Zaskin noted that the project could be replicated elsewhere if it is shown to improve pregnancy outcomes.

Entrepreneur seminar

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the opportunity to secure contracts with procurement offices of the nation's leading corporations.

The Black Enterprise Board of Economists will present its exclusive report on the state of African-American business and Mobilization for Economic Opportunity Political Action Committee (MOPAC) members will discuss the importance of

Support was shown for the implementation of the court-directed school funding, curriculum of inclusion and participation in PTO/PTAs and Parent Empowerment. Harris announced that a state NAACP summit on education will be held this year.

Childhood program

Continued from page 6

offer opportunities for our teachers to refine the tools they already possess. The added benefit will be that teachers can utilize their newly sharpened skills to improve classroom instruction.

All workshops will be conducted by Newark teachers. Former Newark teacher and Kean College professor, Dr. Michael Knight is scheduled to deliver the keynote address. For more information on the program contact Joseph Placide at 201-733-7338.

harnessing black economic power. MOPAC is the only political action committee comprised of CEOs of the nation's top African-American-owned businesses.

For conference registration information, call 1-800-543-6786 or log on to BE On-line at <http://www.blackenterprise.com>.

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